

PAYSON NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

October 12, 2005 Wednesday Payson Police Department Conference Room

Participants

Henry Apfel	AGFD	(480) 981-9400	
Len Call	Sportsman	(928) 970-1042	
Charlie Conover	PNRC	(928) 472-9443	conover@futureone.com
John Dickson	AGFD	(928) 479-2686	
Alan Hallman, DVM	RMEF	(928) 474-9757	ahallman@npgcable.com
George C. Huckey	Sportsman	(928) 474-9713	
Keith Niver	Sportsman	(928) 468-6720	
Bill McEnaney	RMEF	(928) 478-4025	
Dave Daniels	AGFD	(928) 474-3636	
R. Chris Wolf	Sportsman	(928) 468-1313	
Charlie Conover	PNRC	(928) 472-9443	
Natalie Robb	AGFD	(928) 425-8821	
Jon Hanna	AGFD	(480) 981-9400 #218	
Craig McMullen	AGFD	(928) 468-8217	cmcmullen@gf.state.az.us

In the, Craig McMullen acted as chairperson in the absence of Chairperson, Jackie Begay. He opened the meeting at 18:05 hours. A sign-in sheet was passed to participants. Craig introduced Dave Daniels as the new wildlife manager for Unit 23. Dave Daniels will replace Tim Holt, who recently took a position as Game Specialist in Flagstaff. Dave grew up in Payson. After receiving a degree from a Tennessee University, he taught biology at Payson High School. He also coached sports including football and wrestling. Welcome Aboard!

Agenda: 1. Additions, corrections or approval of the July 20, 2005 minutes.

The meeting was called to order. Craig asked if there were any corrections for the minutes of the last meeting, held on July 20, 2005. Charlie made a motion to accept minutes, and Henry second. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved and submitted.

Agenda: 2. October Elk Survey Data- Hanna, Apfel

Henry reported a double count aerial survey method was conducted this year in Unit 22 to determine a baseline elk population estimate. A ground survey also coincided with the aerial survey to compare ratio data. MSA sponsored three hours of helicopter time, and another three hours were funded by the state. Craig thanked MSA for their sponsorship of this project. Here are the Unit 22 2005 survey results with 2004 for comparison:

2004: Total elk observed = 431, with a ratio of 73 bulls: 100 cows: 45 calves

2005: Total elk observed = 245, with a ratio of 49 bulls: 100 cows: 50 calves

Jon reported two hours of helicopter time was used in Unit 23, along with the ground survey effort. Unit 23 survey results:

2004: Total elk observed = 394, with a ratio of 53 bulls: 100 cows: 40 calves

2005: Total elk observed = 452, with a ratio of 46 bulls: 100 cows: 43 calves

Charlie asked if volunteers could participate in the survey. Craig said volunteers are welcomed and should contact wildlife managers. Surveys are usually conducted the second or third week in September.

Fall forage monitoring has not been conducted yet in Unit 22 and Unit 23. This topic will be scheduled for next meeting.

Agenda: 3. Canyon Creek Access Update-McMullen, USFS

Craig McMullen reported that access to Canyon Creek has been limited due to savage logging. From FS Road 188, Valentine Canyon, upstream to forest boundary, this area has been closed by the forest service because of liability concerns associated with logging. However, a week before bull hunt, this area will be open for foot or horse access only. There are approximately 145 elk in Canyon Creek. Hopefully, this project will be completed by November, with access allowed for December cow hunt. At present, this area is closed to any activity, which is posted on all gates. Animal retrieval will need to be done by foot or horseback. There will be no access for deer hunt, only elk.

Completion Reports, Success Stories and Upcoming Events

Domestic Goat Operation – USFS/ Spurlock

Since Pat Spurlock and the USFS were not present, this topic will be tabled for next meeting.

Unit 22 Spring Box Projects- Dickson

John reported this project has been post phoned until roads can be rebuilt. Some roads in the Willow Fire area are completely gone. By Spring John thinks this project will be underway and will have dates next meeting.

Projects completed; or status of implementation:

Unit 23 Mule Creek Elk Exclosure Maint. and repair– pending

Unit 22 Dry Creek Grassland Maint.– pending

Crouch Mesa Grassland Maintenance – pending

Unit 24A Campaign Creek Fencing – 2006

Morse Creek – Funded and Completed

JX – pending

Unit 23S Chalk Mountain and Soldier Camp Dirt Tank- pending

Park Tank Juniper Maintenance – pending

Unit 23Tonto Basin Water Catchments – pending

Bighorn sheep (Unit 23 and 24N) as per Jon Hanna, there are 15 sheep in Parker Canyon as surveyed by 2.5 helicopter hours. Another helicopter survey is scheduled for October 13, 2005

New Business:

Scoping issues and needs for projects and project updates – All

Craig McMullen thanked the wildlife managers for all their hard work on the projects. He also thanked the funding cooperators such as the MSA and RMEF for their generous support. March 1, 2006 is the official deadline for new proposals.

New Proposals:

- Unit 22S Brown Ranch stock tank for wildlife
- Q ranch stewardship-Seed and fertilizer for year round management
- Unit 22 Dude Creek Trick Tank
- Unit 22 Shooting Range Tank Area Dirt tank/dam repair N=3
- Unit 22 Resubmit Pipe Rail Spring (Pending, written in 1988) to be funded by IIPAM
- Calvin, Bishop, and Knoll not funded (John Dickson to contact Sal Palazzolo for clarification)
- Round Valley Seeding
- Klein Valley in Star Valley

Alan Hallman commented he felt previous elk teeth aging reports were very helpful. The statistics that the average bull was 7.1 to 7.3 years of age was very informative. He also discussed the collection of elk heads to determine any diseases and to assess sick elk. He will contact AGFD staff vet, Lisa Shender @ 602-789-3351 for more information. He also has concern for West Nile Virus being detected in squirrels in the area, and how this may affect elk and deer.

Identification of future updates for Regional Elk Operational Plan – Hanna

Jon handed out current document for elk operation plan for review. Any changes will need to be submitted by February 2006. Jon said the commission would approve the Regional Elk Operational Plan in April 2006.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Domestic Goat Operation Update – Pat Spurlock, USFS
- Late Forage Monitoring in Units 22 and 23
- Elk Operational Plan – Jon Hanna
- Calvin, Bishop, and Knoll Spring Update – John Dickson
- Wildlife Update (Diseases and Sickness) – Alan Hallman, DVM
- Project Implementation and Proposal – All

NOTE: The next meeting was originally scheduled to be on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 @ 6:00 in the Payson Police Department Conference Room. However, because of room availability, the next meeting will be on **Thursday, December 15, 2005 @ 6:00** in the Payson Police Department Conference Room.

Meeting was adjourned @ 7:30.